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‘Out of the Ashes’ video highlights Urban Wood utilization

HARRISONBURG, Va. – Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation is giving new life to trees affected by the Emerald Ash Borer.

The “Out of the Ashes” urban wood utilization video was officially unveiled to the public this week on the City’s Youtube channel. The video helps raise awareness of how City staff better utilizes wood from ash trees that have been affected by the invasive insect, so the wood does not end up in landfills.



(Above) A tree removed from a Harrisonburg park is taken to a local sawmill as part of the urban wood utilization process.

“We are always looking for ways that we can improve our community – whether that be through the amenities we offer, or our impact on the local environment we call home,” Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation Director Luanne Santangelo said. “This project, and our continued focus on environmental sustainability and urban wood utilization, will have lasting impacts on the wellbeing of Harrisonburg.”

This video, made possible by the Virginia Urban Wood Group and the VA Department of Forestry, shows the utilization effort from start to finish. First, a dying ash tree was removed from Westover Park by Parks and Recreation staff. From there it was processed by local sawmill Willow Run Custom Lumber, Inc., and then turned into a conference table by local woodcrafter Gray Fox Design Works. The conference table is now being used at Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation.

Project leaders hope the Urban Wood Program continues making the best out of the Emerald Ash Borer situation.

“The promotional video completely captures our initiatives and what we are able to accomplish with urban wood, not letting it end up in landfills,” Urban Wood Program project manager Jeremy Harold said. “I am excited for the release of the video to the community so that we can continue to build the Harrisonburg Urban Wood Program.”

This video was funded by a grant from the Southern Region of the U.S. Forest Service, administered by the Virginia Department of Forestry. It can be found at <https://youtu.be/51mhAV3R7cw>. Visit www.HarrisonburgVA.gov/Urban-Forestry-Program for more information about Harrisonburg’s Urban Forestry effort.

The City of Harrisonburg is centrally located in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. It is home to almost 55,000 people. More information about the City of Harrisonburg is online at www.HarrisonburgVA.gov.



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